covered under the Olympic, Asian games and Commonwealth games. Sportspersons with disability who are competing in open competitions with other sportspersons are admitted in SAI schemes. This data State-wise and game-wise is not being maintained.

(d) There is provision for assistance to physically and mentally challenged persons who possess standards close to international standards prevalent in recognized tournaments in that sport, through the concerned National Sports Federation.

Expenditure on sportspersons who got training abroad

†1849. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sportspersons sent abroad by Government for training during the last three years;

(b) the criterion for the selection in this regard; and

(c) the percentage of sports budget spent on the training of the sportsmen?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) The number of players sent to foreign countries for training with Government assistance under different schemes of the Ministry is given below:

Scheme	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Till 17.3.05)
Assistance to National Sports Federation (NSF)	150	116	87	187
Scheme Relating To Talent Search & Training	8	13	25	30
National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)	-	5	8	8

(b) Under the scheme of assistance to national sports federations, selection of players/teams for training and participation in international

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

events abroad is made by the Selection Committee constituted by the concerned NSFs based on the performance in national level championships/selection trials or ranking at the national level.

Under the scheme relating to Talent Search & Training, the proposals of sportspersons who fulfil the eligibility criteria *i.e.* who have equaled or excelled the existing record or is a Gold medallist of the last National Championship or is medallist of Asian/Commonwealth Games/Afro-Asian Games/Olympic Games/World Championship in the relevant category, *i.e.* Senior/Junior/Sub-junior, are considered by a Selection Committee under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Sports) and approved by the Ministry.

Under the scheme of NSDF, the performance/excellence and chances of winning medals in major international events are among the criteria for selecting sportspersons for assistance from the Fund. The proposals received under NSDF are considered by the Executive Committee of the NSDF under the chairpersonship of the Secretary, Youth Affairs and Sports and approved by the Ministry.

(c) The Ministry's sports programme funds budget is Rs. 85.44 lakh, out of which approximately 58.30% is spent on training and exposures of the sportspersons and about 35.6% on incentives and awards. The Sports Authority of India, autonomous body of the Ministry, is spending funds on training of players ranging from 80 to 95% of its budget on training under plan schemes and 29 to 44.8% of its budget on training under its non-plan schemes.

Bidding for Asian Games

1850. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had consulted Government before bidding for Commonwealth Games 2010;

(b) whether IOA sought Government's suggestions before bidding for Asian Games 2014;

(c) if so, how much it is going to cost to the exchequer; and

(d) if not, whether Government have taken any action against IOA?